

# FACTS AND FIGURES: ALCOHOL IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY



#### **EFFECTS ON THE NERVOUS SYSTEM**

Alcohol is classified as a depressant because it slows down the central nervous system, decreasing motor coordination, reaction time, and intellectual performance. Short-term effects include anxiety, slowed heart and respiratory rates, and blurred vision.

#### **HEALTH EFFECTS AND INJURIES**

Alcohol negatively affects health and is associated with digestive diseases, neuropsychiatric conditions, cardiovascular disease, malignant neoplasms, pregnancy-related conditions, fetal alcohol syndrome, and high risk sex. Alcohol-related illness accounted for 1,370 deaths and 27,424 hospitalizations in one year in LA County.<sup>1</sup>

Alcohol also causes **bodily harm**. Alcohol is implicated in DUIs, falls, suicide, poisonings, and occupational injuries. These harms cause **700 deaths** and **27,530 injuries** annually in Los Angeles.<sup>1</sup>

#### **ECONOMIC COSTS**

The annual economic cost of alcohol use in Los Angeles County is \$10.8 billion. This includes:

- Illness (\$5.4 billion)
- Traffic (DUI; \$2.0 billion)
- Other Injury (\$1.0 billion)
- Crime (\$2.4 billion)

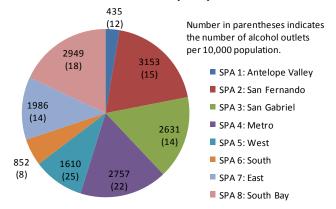
#### PREVALENCE OF PROBLEM DRINKING

**16.2 percent of adults** in Los Angeles County **report binge drinking** (5 or more drinks for men, 4 or more for women) on at least one occasion in the past 30 days. **3.3 percent of adults report heavy drinking** (>60 drinks for men and >30 drinks for women in the previous month).<sup>2</sup>

#### **AVAILABILITY**

Greater alcohol outlet density is associated with increased alcohol consumption and related harms.<sup>3</sup>

## ALCOHOL OUTLETS IN LOS ANGELES BY SERVICE PLANNING AREA (SPA)



#### **DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE**

- In 2007, there were 203,866 DUI arrests in California.<sup>5</sup>
- In 2007, there were 42,736 DUI arrests in Los Angeles County alone.<sup>6</sup>
- In 2008, there were 258 alcohol-involved fatal collisions in Los Angeles County and 4,832 alcohol-involved injury collisions.<sup>7</sup>

### **GET HELP**

Alcohol negatively affects Angelenos, but help is available. In FY09-10, **15,501** individuals received treatment for their alcohol abuse or dependence at Los Angeles County-contracted agencies. To find alcohol treatment in Los Angeles County, please call: **(800) 564-6600**. To find treatment outside of Los Angeles County, please visit:

<u>http://findtreatment.samhsa.gov/</u>. For additional support, please visit <u>Alcoholics Anonymous</u>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The Annual Catastrophe of Alcohol in California: Los Angeles County. Marin Institute, July 2008. http://www.marininstitute.org/site/images/stories/pdfs/coststudylafinal.pdf <sup>2</sup> Los Angeles County Health Survey, 2007

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>Mapping Alcohol Outlet Density in Los Angeles County, in press. Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Forty-four outlets could not be placed in SPAs.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Driving Under-the-Influence (DUI) Statistics. California ADP, October 2009. http://www.adp.ca.gov/FactSheets/DrivingUnderTheInfluenceStatistics.pdf

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Adult Arrests Reported in Los Angeles County, 2007. California Department of Justice. http://stats.doj.ca.gov/cjsc\_stats/prof07/19/18.htm

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Alcohol Involved Collisions. California Highway Patrol. http://www.chp.ca.gov/switrs/index.html#section5